

## BUFFER MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUE FOR A HYPERTRANSPORT DATA PATH PROTOCOL

### RELATED APPLICATIONS

10/818,670

5 This application is related to United States Patent Application Serial No. ~~Patent~~  
~~ney Docket No. 112025-0551~~, entitled HYPERTRANSPORT DATA PATH  
PROTOCOL, by John Mitten, *et al.*, the teachings of which are expressly incorporated  
herein by reference.

### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10 This invention relates generally to communication protocols, and, more specifi-  
cally, to a data path protocol for transferring data over a split transaction bus, such as a  
HyperTransport bus.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 A computer network is a geographically distributed collection of interconnected  
subnetworks for transporting data between nodes, such as computers. A local area net-  
work (LAN) is an example of such a subnetwork; a plurality of LANs may be further in-  
terconnected by an intermediate network node, such as a router or switch, to extend the  
effective "size" of the computer network and increase the number of communicating  
nodes. The nodes typically communicate by exchanging discrete frames or packets of  
data according to predefined network communication protocols. In this context, a net-  
20 work communication protocol consists of a set of rules defining how the nodes interact  
with each other.

Each node typically comprises a number of basic systems including a processor, a  
main memory and an input/output (I/O) system. Data is transferred between the main